

## 22 Royston Avenue Sheffield S20 6SG (Objects)

Comment submitted date: Fri 21 Feb 2020

Flooding

My heart goes out when I see the faces of the victims of flooding as the emergency services work to evacuate them. Many lives have been lost due to flooding. When survivors return to their homes they find a scene of complete devastation. Many find it is hard to claim compensation. We all face increases in insurance premiums as insurance companies are overwhelmed with claims. We all need to do more to prevent flooding.

Before the 2019 General election I attended a hustling at Rainbow Forge Primary School where all the candidates wishing to become the MP for Sheffield South East agreed that we need to plant more trees to stop Climate Change and prevent Flooding. What was not addressed was the need to protect the trees and wetlands we already have. It is defeating the object if we destroy the mature trees and wetlands we already have. We would not be doing anything to prevent Climate Change or stop flooding.

At the hustling our resident MP, Clive Betts, mentioned about the deforestation and loss of peat in the peak district which used to help with the climate and stopped flooding. I personally can remember visiting Lady Bower and the Derwent Dams where I saw logging taking place. Dan Jarvis, our regional Mayor is working together with other MPs to create a Northern Forest. I say to the management of Seven Trent water authority: liaise with Dan Jarvis and start planting trees. Your clients would prefer water to come through the tap and not through the front door!

I would like to thank Sheffield City Council for the £21 Million flood defence which protected Lower Don Valley including Attercliffe and Meadowhall Shopping Centre, both would have been 4ft under water without this defence. At the time Flood Minister Therese Coffey said: " In Yorkshire, the Government is investing £430 Million over the next four years to reduce the flood risk to a further 63,000 homes and businesses." Many people are realizing it is not just concrete barriers we need to build, we also need to invest up stream in areas such as Owlthorpe Fields. Owlthorpe Fields holds a lot of water which it slowly releases it into Ochre Dyke that runs into the River Rother which then flows into the River Don which flooded Fishlake recently. If Owlthorpe Fields are destroyed and houses built the threat of Flooding would be much more extreme down stream especially in Beighton & Fishlake.

The Birley Wood Golf Course is one of the highest points when looking east to

the coast. Water runs of the golf course and under the road near Birley Moor Garden Centre through the culvert in the first picture. The second picture shows the Ochre Dyke as it makes its way through Owlthorpe Heritage & Nature Trail on to the Wetlands of Owlthorpe Fields. The third picture shows the Ochre Dyke as it passes by Crystal Peaks at the side of Buttercup Meadow. As you can see in the third picture the Ochre Dyke is just about coping with the volume of water after it has passed through the Wetlands of Owlthorpe Fields which holds vast quantities of rain water which it releases gently into the Ochre Dyke. If more houses were built on Owlthorpe Fields the Ochre Dyke would surely flood down stream.

## Owlthorpe Heritage & Nature Trails

I would like to thank Clive Betts MP for Sheffield South East, David Caufield - Sheffield City Council Officer, Sheffield City Councillor Helen Mirfin-Boukouris and children from three local primary schools who opened at an official event on March 16th 2012, The Owlthorpe Heritage & Nature Trail the Moorhole Lane Trail, the Ochre Dyke & Wooland Fringe and Buttercup Meadow.

Surveys carried out by Sheffield City Council Ecology Department indentified 843 species of fauna and flora, 96 species of Vertebrates and 295 species of invertebrates alive in Owlthorpe. The land management was taken under the monitoring of Natural England. A further 12,243 Trees and Hedgerow plants were planted also 64,000 bulbs & 1,500 square metres of wildflowers seeds sown. The local school children and community have enjoyed using the trails for many years which lead down Owlthorpe Fields through Owlthorpe wild Orchard, Ochre Dyke, Owlthorpe Wetland and Owlthorpe Forest Setting. The natural beauty and tranquillity of Owlthorpe Fields is a haven away from the ever increasing noise and pollution from nearby traffic. The woodland has many species of mature trees and is the natural habitat for wildlife living there. Information boards where part funded by Crystal Peaks shopping Mall and Retail Park. I am at a loss to understand why Sheffield City Council are even considering destroying our paradise. The only conclusion I can draw is that Sheffield City Council Planning Department have succumbed to financial inducements from the building company.

## Ecological Emergency

I congratulate Bristol City Council who made the decision at a cabinet meeting on 4 February 2020 to declare an ecological emergency over loss of wildlife. Bristol City Council became the first authority to declare a climate emergency in 2018. The mayor, Marvin Rees said, "Our commitment to this will extend beyond parks

and green spaces. We need our buildings, streets and open spaces to support wildlife and create a more nature-friendly city, and we need new developments to do the same." I personally think many cities in the UK should copy Bristol's model. I also urge Sheffield City Council to follow Bristol's lead and declare an ecological emergency. It seems to me that Bristol City Council have a plan. I think any new developments in Bristol will have to meet stringent ecological requirements.

We all need to do more to protect the environment where we live.

I had not realised how bad the situation had become until Bristol City Council called an ecological emergency. For a City Council to take such a decision made me stop and think. The decline in many species is alarming. I am particularly worried about the birds and bees in my garden. Also, where have my hedgehogs gone? I haven't seen foxes or squirrels lately either and they used to be frequent visitors to my garden.

What can we all do to help mother nature? I am not going to dig up my patio or the pavings on my driveway but there is lots I can do in other parts of the garden. When the weather improves I am going to take a walk up to Birley Moor Garden centre and ask the experts which flowers I need to plant in my garden to attract bees, how can I stop pigeons eating the food I leave out for wild birds, what can I do to get my hedgehogs back? Is there something I can do to encourage the squirrels to return? I will continue to look out for foxes and badgers on my walks through Owlthorpe Fields nature trails. I have made a start I have ordered and paid for my green bin from Sheffield City Council.

Health and Welbeing

The Wildlife Trusts say "The natural world is the foundation of our health, wellbeing and prosperity. Evidence shows that a thriving, wildlife-rich environment benefits both physical and mental health. People with nature on their doorstep are more active, mentally resilient and have better all-round health. Every day, we are working to bring wildlife to more people, and more people to wildlife. Get involved and make socialising, volunteering and exercise in natural places central to your daily life."

**Comment submitted date: Sun 09 Feb 2020**

Dear Howard Baxter

Re: Planning Application 19/03143/FUL (I object to building on Owlthorpe Fields)

Please remember the Owlthorpe Heritage & Nature Trail the Moorhole Lane Trail and the Ochre Dyke & Wooland Fringe, were opened with an official event on March 16th 2012 by children from three local primary schools assisted by David

Caufield - Sheffield City Council Officer, Clive Betts MP for Sheffield South East and Sheffield City Councillor Helen Mirfin-Boukouris. The local community has enjoyed using the trails for many years which leads down to Owlthorpe Fields through Owlthorpe wild Orchard, Ochre Dyke, Owlthorpe Wetland and Owlthorpe Forest Setting. The natural beauty and tranquillity of Owlthorpe Fields is a haven away from the ever increasing noise and pollution from nearby traffic. The woodland has many species of mature trees and is the natural habitat for wildlife living there. Please do not destroy our paradise.

The BBC reports 8th February 2020 "More than 50,000 urban trees to be planted in England." Environment Secretary Theresa Villiers said the trees would help fight climate change and connect urban-dwellers with nature. Ms Villiers said: "Trees are vital in the fight against climate change, to tackle air pollution and help us achieve our net-zero target by 2050. "But for local communities they are so much more. "They allow green spaces to come together, help both physical and mental wellbeing, and connect children and young people with nature."

I congratulate Bristol City Council who made the decision at a cabinet meeting on 4th February 2020 to declare ecological emergency over loss of wildlife. The mayor, Marvin Rees said, "Our commitment to this will extend beyond parks and green spaces. We need our buildings, streets and open spaces to support wildlife and create a more nature-friendly city, and we need new developments to do the same." Sheffield City Council please follow Bristol's lead and declare an ecological emergency.

Wednesday 5 February 2020 Sky pledges to go net zero carbon by 2030. Sky has pledged to offset emissions by planting trees, mangroves and seagrass to absorb that carbon if scientific advances do not move fast enough. Sky is also hoping to encourage others to follow its lead and change their environmental habits. I believe Microsoft are on board. We should all encourage Sky to match funding with the Government to inject capital into the project to speed up the planting of trees to protect and enhance and maintain green spaces such as Owlthorpe Fields.

I realise the need for housing and urge the council to lobby central Government for funds to remove toxic waste from brownfield sites. This would be good for the environment and would also make brownfield sites more attractive to building developers. Remember Sheffield City Council is committed to building on brownfield sites. Therefore, Owlthorpe Fields should be off-limits to this + any other developments.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Meredith